

**– REMARKS OF MAYOR PAUL D. FRAIM –**  
**CHRYSLER MUSEUM RIBBON CUTTING**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014**  
**10:00 AM**

Good morning.

Sixteen months ago, the Chrysler Museum closed its doors for the largest and most sweeping renovation and expansion in its history. Since then, the Chrysler's many friends have been anxiously looking forward to the day when the project would be finished.

Well, that day is here. In a few moments we'll throw open the doors so you can see for yourselves the amazing changes that have been made.

To say that the Chrysler has undergone a renovation and expansion just doesn't do justice to the magnitude of what's been accomplished.

The Chrysler's board, its director Bill Hennessey and his outstanding staff have given the citizens of Norfolk and the Commonwealth an entirely new museum . . . and it is nothing less than a breathtaking triumph. It is more than impressive, it is world-class.

At such an important moment, it's appropriate to remember the remarkable story behind this revered cultural institution. What we know today as the Chrysler Museum was built during the depths of the Great Depression. It debuted as the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences. It was a proud public statement by Norfolk's citizens of their belief in the ability of art to enrich the lives of the city's residents.

Years later, the marriage of Walter Chrysler to Norfolk-born Jean Outland set the stage for Mr. Chrysler's donation of his large and extensive collection of art to the city. And the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Over the years the Chrysler has benefitted from a strong public/private partnership . . . and that partnership has enabled it to grow both in size and stature.

This has been made possible due to the generosity of numerous citizens who have donated so much of their time, talent and resources, and has given us the Museum we all know and love today.

On behalf of the City, we are grateful for what so many have done and continue to do.

Those here now – and those no longer with us – for instance, former mayor Roy Martin – are responsible for transforming the Chrysler Museum from its humble origins into an art institution internationally recognized for the quality and importance of its extensive collection.

The new Chrysler allows more of its remarkable art to be exhibited in spaces designed especially for the periods represented by the collection - from ancient Egypt to contemporary art. Already one of the top art museums in the country, these improvements place the Chrysler in the ranks of the most prestigious art institutions in the world.

The Chrysler is a very welcoming place . . . and it's free and open to the public six days a week.

It also offers a rich variety of year round programming – for young and old alike – and it's available to anyone interested in participating.

Along with being a favorite destination for visitors, The Chrysler is also one of our most valuable economic and educational assets.

In its role as the city's cultural flagship, it contributes a quality of life feature so important to potential businesses looking to locate here. It's doubtful that Norfolk Southern would have located here without the presence of the Chrysler.

As an educational resource, the Chrysler is a vital learning laboratory that is extensively utilized by public schools, colleges and universities.

As we begin a new chapter in the Chrysler's history, I especially want to take this opportunity to thank the generous donors who stepped up to raise over \$45 million dollars for this project and for the museum's Glass Studio. Your generosity has positioned the museum to serve Norfolk and its citizens – and the citizens of Hampton Roads – with even greater distinction in the years ahead.

And now I invite the museum's trustees and leadership to join me in officially opening the New Chrysler.